

Chair Gleser-Blouin and members of the committee,

My name is Jeni Canaday. I am a Disability Justice and Human Rights advocate, and the mother of a son who is Blind and Autistic and was restrained and secluded hundreds of times as a child. He now lives with PTSD. All too often incidents of restraint and seclusion are covered up so that parents are unaware it is even happening.

My son was abused in school and treatment facilities many times without my knowledge, because the incidents were never reported to me. One of those incidents happened when he was 7 years old and a bus driver who pulled over behind a business complex alone with my son. He was beating him as my son cowered on the floorboard when a woman happened to be walking by and saw something was off. She thought he was beating a dog until she got closer. The school district was informed before he even got home that day, but they chose not to tell me. I found out it had happened when someone from The Child Abuse Hotline called me to ask how he was doing. They said the woman who witnessed the incident did the right thing and called them to report it. She later called them back to see if they could check in on him. The hotline staff had to work hard to find out who my son was but were successful, thank God. I ended up putting him back on the very same bus with his abuser the next day because they chose not to fire him while they investigated. Realizing I had done this was absolutely devastating. In the end, I had to get an attorney to make sure he was fired from his job.

Another incident happened when a provider at a Day program for ID/DD youth slapped my son across the face leaving a mark that bruised, and then she dragged him across the room and threw him into a seclusion room, causing a perfectly round rug burn on his arm. Nobody told me. When I saw the burn, I thought he must have been burnt with a cigarette. I only knew one person who smoked and that was my ex-husband's girlfriend. Since my son was not able to tell me what happened, I took him to the police station and reported my suspicions. They investigated my ex and his girlfriend. I was horrified to later learn from his DDS case manager that she had gotten a report of the incident. She called me to tell me how sorry she was and to check and see if he was okay. I had no idea what she was talking about. When I asked for the records, I found three eyewitness reports all telling the same story of abuse. The worst part was that I sent him back the next day, once again because nobody told me my son had been abused. Then there was the trauma that innocent people went through by being investigated, and the trauma it caused to my family. I have PTSD and have lived in extreme fear for his safety every single day since. That was 13 years ago, before the current laws were in place. We cannot go backwards to those times. And these are just a few of our traumatic stories from the time period in which my son was being mishandled, misunderstood, and triggered into fight or flight by staff who were not properly

trained to support him. When you remove accountability, you are opening the door to hide abuse, which is often happening due to the inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion. Expectations of accountability saves lives.

It is extremely important that we protect children from abuse cover ups. SB1113 ensures that when providers do not inform parents their children were restrained and or secluded, they will be held accountable for this abusive action, where HB3835 makes it easier for districts to keep parents in the dark, and cover up abuse in order to mitigate the risk of liability. Something that is especially critical for the child like mine, who may not have the ability to tell their parents what happened to them at school. We must protect the most vulnerable students in Oregon from the overuse of R&S and the lifetime of trauma it causes everyone involved.

I am in support of this bill because I believe it was written with the intention of putting the safety and wellbeing of children first, by clarifying guidelines around the use of restraint and seclusion and ensuring appropriate abuse reporting takes place. HB1113 clearly outlines, trauma-informed approaches, keeps private equity out of Oregon, and aligns with federal law. Passing this bill will help us to keep children as safe as possible while we do the critical work upstream to provide the right trainings to staff, which include how to create sensory safe environments and supports, how to practice Collaborative and Proactive Solutions, and most importantly learning and mastering Coregulation Skills.

Please vote yes on SB1113, the children will thank you.